

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 044842

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FFOR JA UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV REPLY TO PRIMIN TANAKA LETTER

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE MARCH 10, FROM TOKYO REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE:

S E C R E T TOKYO 2835

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FFOR JA UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV REPLY TO PRIMIN TANAKA LETTER

REF: A. TOKYO 2616; B. TOKYO 2617

SUMMARY: JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NIIZEKI MET WITH FIRST SECRETARY
BREZHNEV MARCH 6 FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO AND ONE- HALF HOURS
DURING WHICH HE DELIVERED LETTER FROM PRIMIN TANAKA.
ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING DESCRIBED AS QTE VERY FRIENDLY UNQTE
WITH BREZHNEV STATING HE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH SENTIMENTS
EXPRESSED BY TANAKA. BREZHNEV AGREED TO SECOND ROUND JAPAN-
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SOVIET PEACE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THIS YEAR, WITH TIMING AND LEVEL TO BE AGREED UPON LATER. HE INSISTED SOVIET UNION UNALTERABLY COMMITTED TO POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WHICH IT WISHED TO EXTEND TO COUNTRIES OF EAST ASIA DESPITE EFFORTS OF QTE SOME ELEMENTS UNQTE TO SOW SUSPICIONS OF SOVIET INTENTIONS. BREZHNEV REITERATED SOVIET DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH JAPAN IN DEVELOPMENT PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS RESOURCES AND URGED THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS ENDEAVOR TO EXPEDITE SOLUTION OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS THROUGH JOINT STUDY BY EXPERTS. BREZHNEV INTENDS REPLY FORMALLY TO TANAKA LETTER IN DUE COURSE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING UP ON AMBASSADOR' S DISCUSSION WITH VICE FONMIN HOGEN MARCH 6 (REF A), DIRGEN AMERICAN AFFAIRS OKAWARA MARCH 10 BRIEFED DCM ON SUBSTANCE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NIIZEKI' S MEETING WITH FIRST SECRETARY BREZHNEV, MARCH 6, TO DELIVER LETTER FROM PRIMIN TANANA (REF B). OKAWARA STRESSED CONFIDENTIALITY OF BRIEFING AND STATED THAT THIS NOT BEING DONE FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

2. READING FROM MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM NIIZEKI, OKAWARA BEGAN BY NOTING THAT ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING QTE VERY FRIENDLY UNQTE, WITH SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION PRECEDED BY HALF HOUR CHAT OVER TEA WITHOUT BENEFIT OF INTERPRETER. AFTER READING TEXT TANAKA LETTER, BREZHNEV REMARKED THAT HE RECEIVED SUBSTANCE WITH DEEP SENSE OF SATISFACTION. HE STATED HE WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN FAVOR OF PROMOTION GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND SOVIET UNION AS EMPHASIZED BY TANAKA, AND REMARKED THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SIGN THAT LETTER HIMSELF.

3. SPEAKING AS POLITICIAN, BREZHNEV COMMENTED THAT HE SURE EVERY COUNTRY IN WORLD, REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL SYSTEM, RECOGNIZES LESSON OF HISTORY THAT WAR BRINGS ONLY UNHAPPINESS TO ONE' S OWN COUNTRY. FOR ITS PART, USSR HAS BEEN PURSUING POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES AS AFFIRMED IN 24 TH PARTY CONGRESS AND HOPES THAT SUCH RELATIONSHIP CAN BE EXTENDED TO COUNTRIES OF EAST ASIA, ALTHOUGH THERE QTE SOME ELEMENTS UNQTE WHICH ARE MANEUVERING TO CREATE MISTRUST OF SOVIET UNION. HOWEVER, BREZHNEV EMPHASIZED, NO ONE IN SOVIET UNION, INCLUDING HIMSELF, COULD ALTER BASIC POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

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4. FOR THAT REASON, BREZHNEV CONTINUED, HE WELCOMED WITH FULL

UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT PRIMIN TANAKA' S DESIRE TO DEVELOP AND EXPAND SOVIET- JAPANESE RELATIONS ON STABLE BASIS. THIS HE BELIEVES CAN BE DONE BY PROMOTING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES QTE ON BASIS OF REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE STAND UNQTE. BREZHNEV STATED THAT HE AGREED TO HOLDING SECOND ROUND OF JAPAN- SOVIET PEACE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WITH- IN THIS YEAR AND SUGGESTED THAT TIMING AND LEVEL BE WORKED OUT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

5. BREZHNEV STATED THAT SOVIET UNION ATTACHES PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITHIN CONTEXT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES. HE COMMENTED THAT SOVIET UNION HAS SUFFICIENT CAPABILITY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO DEVELOP THESE RESOURCES INDEPENDENTLY AND WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN FINDING MARKETS. IT DESIRES, HOWEVER, TO COOPERATE WITH JAPAN IN THIS EFFORT AS MEANS OF PROMOTING GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS. BREZHNEV NOTED THAT AGREEMENT ON SUCH COOPERATION HAS BEEN DELAYED BY FINANCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THESE QUESTIONS CAN BE SETTLED ON BASIS OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS COOPERATION THROUGH SUCH MEANS AS JOINT STUDY BY EXPERTS WHO WOULD REPORT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. BREZHNEV STATED THAT SOVIETS PREPARED TO SUPPLY THESE RESOURCES TO JAPAN OVER PERIOD 30-40 YEARS BUT THAT THIS SHOULD BE ON BASIS MUTUALITY. HE HOPED THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WOULD MAKE EFFORT TO EXPEDITE SOLUTION OF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND WAS PLEASED THAT PRIMIN TANAKA HAD STATED THAT HE PREPARED TO CONSIDER VARIOUS MEASURES OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, INCLUDING EXTENSION OF CREDIT.

6. BREZHNEV NOTED THAT THERE ARE QTE PEOPLE UNQTE WHO DO NOT FAVOR IMPROVEMENT OF JAPAN- SOVIET RELATIONS AND ARE ENGAGED IN VARIOUS MANEUVERS AGAINST SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, BUT HE DID NOT WISH TO GO INTO THAT PROBLEM AT THIS TIME. HE ASKED AMBASSADOR MIIZEKI TO CONVEY TO PRIMIN TANAKA HIS APPRECIATION OF LETTER HE HAD RECEIVED AND HIS BEST REGARDS FOR PRIMIN' S HEALTH AND PEACE OF JAPANESE PEOPLE AND WORLD. BREZHNEV STATED THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING FORMAL REPLY IN DUE COURSE.

7. IN RESPONSE, NIIZEKI EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AND CONFIDENCE THAT TANAKA WOULD BE MOST SATISFIED WITH BREZHNEV' S SENTIMENTS.

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HE ALSO STATED THAT HE SHARED BREZHNEV' S VIEWS ON IMPORTANCE OF CONTACTS BETWEEN LEADERS OF TWO COUNTRIES AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION IN EXPANDING BILATERAL RELATIONS. BREZHNEV REPLIED THAT SOVIET- JAPANESE RELATIONS ALREADY QTE A BROAD AVENUE NOT SMALL ROAD UNQTE AND THAT TASK

AHEAD IS TO QTE PAVE THAT AVENUE UNQTE.

8. OKAWARA COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING
NIIZEKI HAS HAD WITH BREZHNEV. ALTHOUGH OKAWARA EVIDENTLY
DID NOT FIND SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATION PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY,
HE OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY ATMOSPHERE AND EVIDENT SOVIET SESIRE
TO BE FORTHCOMING IN RESPONSE TO SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY
PRIMIN TANAKA IN HIS LETTER. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE ROGERS

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